

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:VPB

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

C-SHINN

H-JENKINS (INFO)

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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R 270152Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS - 1

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UR

SUBJECT:SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: MOSCOW 1038

1. ISRAELI EMBOFF WHO FOLLOWS SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION PROVIDED DEPT OFFICER WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. IN 1975 34,145 NEW INVITATIONS ("VYZOVS") WERE SENT TO SOVIET JEWS FROM ISRAEL. 16,000 INVITATIONS WERE RE-NEWED. IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 7,371 NEW INVITATIONS WERE SENT.

3. GEORGIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION IN 1975 WAS 10.6 PERCENT OF TOTAL. EMIGRATION FROM RSFSR, EASTERN UKRAINE AND BYELORUSSIA WAS 42.9 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WHEREAS IN PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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VIOUS YEARS EMIGRATION FROM THESE THREE AREAS AVERAGED

ABOUT 15 PERCENT.

4. IN 1975 PERCENTAGE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS WHO CHANGED DESTINATIONS IN VIENNA WAS ABOUT 35 PERCENT, WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF "DROPOUTS" AMONG URBAN JEWS. AS EXAMPLE, ISRALI EMBOFF GAVE FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES OF "DROPOUTS" FOR CITIES INDICATED: MOSCOW - 71.8 PERCENT, LENINGRAD - 72 PERCENT, KIEV - 70 PERCENT, ODESSA - 91.6 PERCENT.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT EFFECT OF REPORTED CHANGES IN SOVIET EMIGRATION PROCEDURES, ISRAELI EMBOFF EXPRESSED OPINION THAT EMIGRATION FLOW WOULD NOT INCREASE SOLELY BECAUSE OF LIBERALIZED PROCEDURES, BUT AGREED THAT MORE JEWS MIGHT APPLY FOR EXIT IF FEELING SPREAD AMONG PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS THAT INTERNAL ATMOSPHERE FOR EMIGRATION WAS GETTING BETTER. IN THAT EVENT, SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE EITHER TO ALLOW MORE TO LEAVE OR INCREASE REFUSALS.

6. ISRAELI EMBOFF ALSO REPORTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE HAD SOME "FEELERS" FROM SOVIETS REGARDING SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 17-19. WHILE EMBOFF DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL, THRUST OF SOVIET APPROACH WAS THAT, IF TONE OF CONFERENCE IS MODERATED, SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION WOULD TAKE PLACE. EMBOFF ASCRIBED THIS TO SOVIET DESIRE TO AVOID TO EXTENT POSSIBLE BAD PRESS IN WEST DURING PARTY CONGRESS. HE DID NOT INDICATE IF "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS" MEANT INCREASE IN EMIGRATION FLOW OR RELEASE OF SOME PROMINENT JEWISH ACTIVISTS. (CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTEL REPORTING PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE FOR LUNTS ET AL). KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, JEWS, EMIGRANTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MLEVITSKY:VPB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 MOSCOW 1038  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, UR, IS  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006